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OXC-4475-83

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13 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Utilization of Eielson AFB as a Staging Base -
Project OXCART**

1. The proposed operational concept of staging from Eielson may have considerable bearing on the continued covert aspects of Project OXCART. The major factors which should be considered are:

- a. The transient nature of operational personnel at that base. Such personnel are drawn from many different bases, remain a short period of time, and return to their home stations.
- b. The unique appearance of the vehicle would make it the object of immediate and lingering curiosity.
- c. Lack of a cover story. In the earlier program the photo recce activity was covered by a variety of other activities which could be, and were, performed by that vehicle.



- d. The runway at Eielson parallels, and is immediately adjacent to, the main Fairbanks highway. This would afford considerable exposure on takeoff, and probably even more on approach and landing.

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2. Serious consideration should be given to the balance between the enhanced operational capability and the earlier exposure of an as yet covert operational capability.

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